                                                                                    PATENT
                                                                                    450100-04866

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1-32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing transcoded media content in response to a batch media provider request, comprising the steps of:

receiving the batch media provider request;

selecting a transcoding server based on server load;

sending, to the selected transcoding server, a transcoding task corresponding to the batch media provider request;

transcoding source media content to produce the requested transcoded media content; and

storing the requested transcoded media content in a cache,

wherein said selecting step is further based on an estimated load to be created by the transcoding task, and

The method of claim 32, wherein said selecting step (b) comprises the steps of:

(i) determining source, destination, and server properties;

(ii) searching historical transcode task load data for a closest match;

(iii) calculating a difference between the transcoding task and the closest match; and

                                                                                    00376184

(iv) if the difference is sufficiently small, returning a load value of the closest

match; otherwise, and

returning a predetermined conservative load estimate depending on the calculated

difference.

34–38. (Canceled)

00376184